



**VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**  
**APRIL 2023**

**APRIL VILLAGE MEETING**

**April 18, 2023** – 7:30pm – hybrid platform (in-person and via Zoom – instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list \*Approval of March Minutes \*Treasurer’s Report \*Permits \*Arbor Day Proclamation\* Approval of FY24 Budget & Ordinance

registered with Montgomery County Board of Supervisors of Elections or with the Village Council) can seek nomination for the available Council positions by sending written notice to the Nominating Committee (Geetika Sripath at [gbhandari@gmail.com](mailto:gbhandari@gmail.com)) up to one week before the elections, which is **Tuesday, April 25**, per the Village charter.

**CALENDAR (2023)**

- April 18: Village Council Meeting  
7:30pm – In-Person and Virtual
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 28: National Arbor Day
- May 2: Village Annual Meeting/Elections at NCC Christian Church
- June 2: National Gun Violence Awareness Day
- June 3: Village Spring Fair
- June 15: Curbside Donation, Clothing Donation Nation
- June 16: Curbside Donation, Furniture/Non-Clothing Items Donation Nation
- June 17: Bulk Trash Pick Up
- June 20: Village Council Meeting

Bios for candidates are included at the end of this newsletter.

Residents can request absentee ballot and/or vote in-person on **May 2** at the NCC Christian Church. Council members will then be sworn in for new terms at the **May 2** Annual Meeting.

**VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES**

**Village Council Elections:** Election for two of the five Village Council positions (2-year terms) will be held on **Tuesday, May 2, 2023**. The current Council members whose terms are expiring are Brian Hoffner and Chas Stuart. Hoffner has indicated that he will seek reelection, while Stuart has advised the Council that he will not seek reelection. Please note that the Village Charter Section 9.03 indicates that any Qualified Voter (resident of the Village of North Chevy Chase who is qualified to vote in Montgomery County and is

**VILLAGE COUNCIL**

Chair: Adrian Andreassi  
[chair@northchevychase.org](mailto:chair@northchevychase.org)

Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner  
[brianhoffner@gmail.com](mailto:brianhoffner@gmail.com)

Secretary: Maury Mechanick  
[secretary@northchevychase.org](mailto:secretary@northchevychase.org)

Treasurer: Olga Joos  
[treasurer@northchevychase.org](mailto:treasurer@northchevychase.org)

Member: Chas Stewart  
[member@northchevychase.org](mailto:member@northchevychase.org)

Manager: Susan Theis  
[nccinfo@northchevychase.org](mailto:nccinfo@northchevychase.org)

Fire Board Representatives:  
 Dave Albinson, Abby Morris, Guim Barbour

**Village of North Chevy Chase**  
 P.O. Box 15887, Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
**Mobile: 301-654-7084**  
 TDD (MD Relay Service): 1-800-735-2258  
 Website: [www.northchevychase.org](http://www.northchevychase.org)

**FY2024 Budget:** The Village Council reviewed the draft budget for FY2024 at the March meeting. The draft budget and corresponding ordinance will be posted to the Village website and attached to this newsletter as well. The Council will be voting on the budget at the **April 18** meeting. Residents are requested to provide any written feedback/comments to the Village Manager in advance of the meeting. Please note that the proposed real property tax rate (0.045) and personal property rate (0.13) of assessed value remains the same and has been since FY18.

### **Pesticides for Your Yard:**

A reminder that synthetic pesticides for lawns are banned in Montgomery County. Learn more at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns/law/](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns/law/).

Mosquito spray services are not illegal, but the sprays used affect all insects, including pollinators and the insects that birds need to survive during nesting season. Try simple do-it-yourself bucket dunks, which target only mosquitoes. Learn more at <https://moco360.media/2020/04/23/welcoming-nature/5/>

**“Petiquette”:** Please see below for helpful reminders for pet owners. Not every homeowner is a pet owner, so please be a responsible pet owner and be respectful of private property. Avoiding private property is the best way to be a courteous neighbor.

- **Keep your pet on a leash.**
- **Do not allow your pet to wander onto other resident's property.**
- **If your pet has to go, make sure it does so on common areas**, like the curb grass closest to the street. Do not venture into homeowner's yards.
- **Pet urine kills plants and flowers.** Please be mindful of the community landscaping and your neighbors landscaping.
- **Keep our common areas clean**, by picking up pet waste and disposing it in your trash can at your home or in Village trash receptacles.

- **Please note:** that the Village fine for not properly disposing of pet waste is \$100 for the first offense and \$500 for subsequent offenses.

**Recyclables:** The Village participates in a dual stream recycling program.

Glass/plastic/aluminum go in one recycling container; mixed paper should be placed in a separate container. **NO plastic bags of any type should be recycled** (even those that say recyclable) – please take them to the grocery store or discard. Additional **excluded items** are hazardous/toxic product containers, electronics, plastic wrap, Styrofoam, and needles/syringes/health care supplies. In addition, any plastic food or beverage containers that are marked PS (polystyrene) or #6 are **not to be included** in the recycling. The Village recycling service will not collect waste with any of the above excluded items.

If **batteries** are being replaced, they need to be recycled properly. Improperly disposed batteries in trash and recycling containers can result in trash fires. To avoid a potential tragedy, residents can bring all types of batteries to the **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) drop-off area** at the Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station. The recycling facility is located at 16101 Frederick Rd. in Derwood. In addition, some retailers also offer drop-off programs to recycle batteries. Check the **Call2Recycle** (<https://www.call2recycle.org/locator/>) to find a nearby location.

**Staying Connected:** Village management would like to have up-to-date contact information for each resident. To be added to the email distribution, please send your email address and phone number to the Village Manager at [nccinfo@northchevy Chase.org](mailto:nccinfo@northchevy Chase.org) or via text to the Village mobile at 301-654-7084. In addition, if you would like to be added to the online directory (password protected) on the Village website, please notify the Village Manager.

**Taxes: Tuesday, April 18, 2023:**

Since April 15 falls on a Saturday, and Emancipation Day falls on Monday, April 17, the tax deadline is moved to April 18. Please be sure to include the Village of North Chevy Chase as your “city” at the top of your State Tax Return. In the past, Village residents’ income taxes have been sent to other municipalities in error due to misfiling. For electronic filers, the Political Subdivision Code for North Chevy Chase is 1618.

**Arbor Day Foundation once again Names the Village of North Chevy Chase A Tree City USA**

The Village was once again named as a Tree City USA for 2022 by the Arbor Day Foundation (our second year!), in honor of our commitment to effective urban forest management. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

The Village achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program’s four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

More information on the program is available at [arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://arborday.org/TreeCityUSA).

**PERMIT REMINDERS:**

- *Please note that a **Village permit** may be required for many exterior work projects (and, when applicable, Montgomery County). Please visit the Village website at [www.northchevy.chase.org](http://www.northchevy.chase.org) or contact the Village Manager at #301.654.7084 to verify any requirements.*

**GENERAL INTEREST:**

**Montgomery County will celebrate April as “Earth Month” with special events promoting sustainability, conservation and eco-friendliness.**

The 2023 international theme for Earth Month and Earth Day – **April 22**—is “Invest in Our Planet.”

Montgomery County will have a series of events, activities and campaigns designed to inspire action and a commitment to sustainability and environmental protection.

Those will include:

- GreenFest in the Gardens. Saturday, **April 22**: Events Brookside Gardens in Wheaton. Sunday, **April 23**: Activities at GreenFest in the City at Marian Fryer Plaza in Downtown Wheaton. <https://montgomerycountygreenfest.org>
- Bike and scooter classes for adults. [https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press\\_Detail.aspx?Item\\_ID=42956&Dept=50](https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=42956&Dept=50)
- Food is Too Good to Waste - Social media campaign to reduce the amount of food waste generated at the source, channel excess food to those with unmet needs and compost food waste. <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/foodwaste/>
- Montgomery Parks Volunteer Park Cleanups/ Events
  - Nature Centers hosting native plant sales. <https://montgomeryparks.org/plant-sales/>.
  - Stream and Park Cleanups throughout the month. <https://montgomeryparks.org/support/volunteer/stream-park-cleanups/>
  - Earth Day trash clean up. Saturday, **April 22**. <https://montgomeryparks.org/events/earth-day-trash-clean-up/>.
- Arbor Day Tree Planting—Friday, **April 28**. Veterans Park, Wheaton (time TBD).

**Purple Line: Sewer Line Rehabilitation Work to Start on Chevy Chase Lakes Drive**

On or about **April 11**, crews will begin sewer line work on Chevy Chase Lakes Drive between Chevy Chase Lakes Terrace and Hamlet Place. This work will require daily lane closures on Chevy Chase Lakes Drive; however, access will be maintained at all times for both vehicles and pedestrians around the work zone. On-street

parking directly adjacent to the work zone will be limited. Please follow posted signage. Work may occur 7am to 7pm, weekdays and weekends, as needed through May 2023.

**Purple Line: Work Continues in the Connecticut Avenue Station Area:** Work continues in the area of future Connecticut Avenue Purple Line Station through April. Work includes concrete placement, stormwater drainage and retaining walls. Work may take place 7am to 7pm weekdays and weekends, as needed.

**Spring Cleaning & Shredding Event  
Saturday, April 29 from 8am to 11am**  
Parking lot of the North Chevy Chase Christian Church, 8814 Kensington Parkway

- Onsite shredding truck to safely destroy your papers & files
- A Wider Circle onsite truck to accept your donations of housewares, furniture, linen, children's clothes and adult professional items
- Onsite pet food collection for House with a Heart Pet Sanctuary

PLUS: jazz band performances by the Paul Carr Jazz Academy teens!

Hosted by Stacy Berman, Realtor, RLAH, [stacy.berman@rlahre.com](mailto:stacy.berman@rlahre.com), #301.466.4056 and Co-hosted by the North Chevy Chase Christian Church ([www.nc4disciples.org](http://www.nc4disciples.org))

**Elrich proposes 10-cent property tax increase to fund public education**  
County Executive Marc Elrich released his recommended \$6.8 billion operating budget for FY 2024. In it, he proposed a 10-cent property tax increase. The current property tax rate is roughly 98 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

The proposed budget must be voted on by the County Council by June 1. If the council approves the tax hike, the increase will provide an additional \$220 million for public schools. The council has scheduled public hearings for **April 11 and April 13**.

The funding from the tax hike would be used to recruit and retain outstanding educators,

teachers, and other essential school staff, address the increase in special education enrollment, and improve student performance. According to the results of the 2022 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program test, only 31 percent of MCPS students scored proficient in math, and 53 percent scored proficient in English. About half of the county's budget is allocated to Montgomery County Public Schools.

**Residents Asked to Participate in Survey on How to Expand and Improve Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Will Offer Webinars on April 13-14**

Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is asking residents to participate in a survey on how the County could expand and improve charging infrastructure for electric vehicles (EVs).

Beginning in 2023, significant funding will be available from Maryland and the Federal government for local governments and private property owners to install EV charging. To take advantage of this opportunity and accelerate the transition to EV ownership, DEP is developing a plan to expand the availability of EV charging throughout the community.

The survey, which will be open through **May 15**, is available at [Montgomery County Community EV Charging Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8MNJQ9F) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8MNJQ9F>). To join the **April 13** webinar, which will start at 7 pm, go to [Meeting Registration - Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEKdeCsrzkjGNcp7oxZLhvQOjLIWaMfzC8k) (<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEKdeCsrzkjGNcp7oxZLhvQOjLIWaMfzC8k>). To join the **April 14** webinar, which will start at noon, go to [Meeting Registration - Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvce6vrDwiE9RrDFRSQwp7wC9nu1xKWiuD) (<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvce6vrDwiE9RrDFRSQwp7wC9nu1xKWiuD>).

EVs charged in Montgomery County on Pepco's electric grid reduce emissions by 70-75 percent, demonstrating that switching to an EV is one of the biggest ways to reduce the County's carbon footprint.

For more information on DEP's actions in the move to EVs, go to <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/zev/index.html>.

### County Executive Elrich to Hold Six 'Community Conversations' to Talk About Long-term Priorities and the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvements Budget

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich will hold six "community conversations" at sites around the County in April and May to talk about long-term priorities and how he will address the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget.

The community conversation events will address how the County Government will make decisions on major projects such as the construction of public schools, building swimming pools, transportation improvements, improvements to sidewalks, improvements to local parks, building parking garages and establishing childcare centers.

The schedule and sites for the FY25 Capital Budget community conversations:

- Wednesday, **April 12**. 7-8:30pm. In-person event. Conversation for the Eastern County. White Oak Community Recreation Center. 1700 April Lane, Silver Spring.
- Monday, **April 17**. 7-8:30pm. In-person event. Conversation for Silver Spring Region. Silver Spring Civic Building (Spring Room). 1 Veterans Pl., Silver Spring.
- Wednesday, **April 19**. 7-8:30pm. In-person event. Conversation for Bethesda-Chevy Chase Region. Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center (East-West Room). 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda.
- Monday, **April 24**. 7-8:30pm. In-person event. Conversation for the UpCounty Region. Sidney Kramer UpCounty Regional Services, 12900 Middlebrook Rd, Suite 1000, Germantown.
- Wednesday, **April 26**. 7-8:30pm. In-person event. Conversation for the Mid-County Region. Wheaton Community Recreation Center. 11701 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring,
- Monday, **May 1**. 7-8:30pm. Virtual event. Details to be announced.

### County Council Enacts Bill to Establish Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission

The Montgomery County Council enacted legislation to establish an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission. The legislation is supported by the full Council, County Executive Marc Elrich and the County's Commission on People with Disabilities. The purpose of this bill is to better coordinate services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

The new IDD Commission will have 24 members, including individuals from the intellectual and developmental disability community, service providers, service agencies and the Commission on People with Disabilities.

The commission also will provide educational programs, identify current gaps in services and provide advice and recommendations on best practices to the County and the County Executive.

#### Did You Know?

Pepco offers a Quick Home Energy Check-up that teaches residents how their home uses energy and how to make easy changes that can save both energy and money. In about an hour, a certified Energy Analyst will conduct a walk-through of your home and may even install energy-saving products at no additional cost to the homeowner. After the check-up is completed, recommendations will be emailed or mailed to help you reduce your energy use and save money.

To learn more, go to:

<https://homeenergysavings.pepco.com/md/residential/quick-home-energy-check-up-program>

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH COUNCIL**

**MEETING** (Please note that the official minutes will be posted to Village website upon approval)

**Secretary's Report for February 2023 Council Meeting** (Mechanick) – Approved.

**Treasurer's Report for February 2023** (Joos) – Results for February 2023 included income of \$93,506.70, and operating expenses of \$22,873.31 (including waste removal, trees, street lighting, sign/street maintenance, wages and taxes, professional fees and office and communication). Current fiscal year to date revenues through February 2023 (not including ARPA funds) came to \$489,391.58 and current fiscal year to date operating expenses came to \$192,917.28. No capital expenditures were incurred during February 2023. Total current assets as of February 2023, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including ARPA funds received, came to \$2,768,193.72. The Village continues to seek further guidance from the Village accountants, as well as the State or Montgomery County regarding the amount of property tax collections and disbursements credited to the Village, in light of conflicting information previously provided regarding the expected amount of such disbursements.

### **Permits:**

- 8910 Clifford Avenue – permit approved for construction project under 250 sq. feet; while requiring a site management agreement for the project, the Council decided to waive a security deposit, given limited extent of external disruption from the project.

### **Action Items:**

**Antisemitism Resolution** – The Council approved a resolution condemning increased incidents of antisemitism within Montgomery County; the Town of Chevy Chase Village had taken the lead on this effort, having encouraged a number of nearby municipalities to join it in adopting similar resolutions.

**Village Right of Way Tree Planting** – Stadler Nursery has advised that most of the trees ordered have now come in (fifteen trees) and plans are for having them planted on March 24,

2023. Village residents at the affected properties will be notified and provided with Village-supplied watering bags for the trees. The Council expressed interest in continuing the program for the planting of additional trees in Village ROW areas as well, wherever possible, as well as a second round of offering canopy trees to residents to be planted within residential property, as was done previously in FY 2021.

### **Status Update/Intersection of Kensington Parkway and Montrose Driveway**

– The Village is pleased with the results of conversion of the Kensington Parkway/Montrose Driveway intersection. The Council will further monitor the situation to assess whether additional measures may not be required, including a lighted stop sign. The Village Manager will also check on whether installation of a lighted stop sign would require removal of the pedestrian crossing warning lights previously installed at that intersection, as concerns were expressed that, if that were the case, maintaining the warning lights for pedestrian safety reasons should be the higher priority. As part of this conversion process, the Village also had the stop bars and crosswalk markings at various intersections on Kensington Avenue repainted and the Council decided to authorize the repainting of stop bars at all intersections within the Village.

**Village Investments** – In light of evolving financial conditions nationally, including the increase in interest rates available on certain investments, the Council has agreed to consider participation in additional low-risk investment instruments offering higher yields than standard certificates of deposit, including the Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP) and U.S. Treasury Notes and Bonds.

### **Council Elections/Nominating Committee**

– The Nominating Committee has been constituted and is continuing its efforts to identify residents who will may be interested in seeking election to the Village Council at the upcoming election in May 2023. There are two Council seats up for election this year (in each case for a two-year term). One of the incumbents, Brian Hoffner, has indicated that

he will seek reelection, while the other incumbent, Chas Stuart, has advised the Council that he will not seek reelection.

**Budget FY 2024** – The Council reviewed and commented on a draft operating budget that had been prepared for FY 2024, which will then be formally approved at the April 2023 Council meeting. A copy of the draft operating budget will be attached to the April 2023 newsletter distributed to all Village residents, as required by the Village Charter.

**SUSTAINABLE LIVING:** (Courtesy of Environment Committee)

**Earth Day 2023 – Sat. April 22:**

**What To Do and How To Make An Impact!!**

- Vote for Earth to Prioritize Our Environment for Health, Sustainable Wellbeing and Social Equity
- Minimize/End Plastic Use and Excess Consumption
- Learn About Ecology, Nature, Biodiversity and Climate and the Integration of It All
- Reduce Waste and Recycle, Reuse, Repair, Repurpose, Refuse (To Buy) ... and Compost
- Plant Trees and Native Plants and Maintain a Chemical Free Lawn and Garden
- Invest In Our Planet, Sustainable Products and Services and Travel Offsets
- Reduce Meat Consumption

**Good Reads:**

- The Ministry for the Future (2020) by Kim Stanley Robinson: an evidence-based novel of how climate change can affect us all.

- How to Avoid a Climate Disaster (2021) by Bill Gates: nonfiction, presents the opportunities, innovation, and investments to address climate change with government and societal support.
- Braiding Sweetgrass (2013) by Potawatomi professor Robin Wall Kimmerer: nonfiction, premised on indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, the teachings of plants and nature and the inter-connections of life.

**SAVE THE DATE: Village Spring Fair on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>!**

Come by Montgomery Avenue at Inverness Drive on **Saturday, June 3 from 10am to 1 pm** for the Village Spring Fair and enjoy:

- **Gorgeous native flowers and shrubs.** Pre-order and pick up at the fair. See recommended flowers and ordering details in early May.
- **Art show - Nature in Our Neighborhood!** All ages and all art are welcome, from crayon & pencil drawings to photographs & oil paintings.
- **Kids' Corner** - Bring the kids for a fun scavenger hunt and nature-friendly crafts!
- **Fresh golden crispy crepes** from The Crepe Shoppe available for purchase and cooked to order. We're aiming for zero waste so please bring your own coffee cup.
- **Live music!** Folk Favorites & more!
- **Free compost bins. Sign up for free trees.** Get garden and nature advice from local experts and your favorite non-profits!

Hope to see everyone there!



## VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

### **CANDIDATES for 2023 VILLAGE COUNCIL POSITIONS:**

#### **Brian Hoffner**

My name is Brian Hoffner, I have been on the board for over 12 years. I am the father of Gavin(12) and Cece(10). My wife's name is Wendy. My children have lived their entire life in the village, and I am proud to be a part of North Chevy Chase.

I am sure many of you may not know me by name but by face and what our dogs look like (Greyson, the Weimaraner, and Miley, the Aussiedoodle) as I am walking throughout the neighborhood, sometimes solo, sometimes with the entire family, on a daily basis. In my spare time, outside of working with Susan and the board, I enjoy coaching my children's youth sports teams and working in my yard.

The original purpose of my joining the board several years ago was to give a voice to the younger parents throughout the neighborhood who had concerns about unsafe drivers, lack of speed bumps, and other traffic calming measures. I soon realized that this was not only a concern for younger families but for the entire NCC community. My approach hasn't changed, we have more families, animals, walkers, and young children than we have ever had in the past 20 years and my goal is to continue to make smart decisions with your tax dollars to make this village more safe, walkable and enjoyable to live in.

#### **Jon Macy**

Originally from Northeast Ohio (suburb of Cleveland), I moved to the DC area in 2004 after graduating from Denison University as a Political Science Major with Minors in Environmental Studies and Geology. Over the past 19 years, I have lived all over the DMV from Bethesda, Annandale, Arlington, Tenleytown and now the Village of North Chevy Chase. My wife, Elizabeth and I brought our family here in the summer of 2015 and have loved this amazing community that we now call home. Along with our daughters Kaitlyn (10), Emma (8) and Chocolate Lab Bodie (2), you can find us walking the streets on scooters or bikes while Bodie tries to say hi to every single person and/or dog he sees along his walk since he is such a social butterfly. Most of my professional career has been handling large scale operations from the Hospitality Industry to now Amazon where I am often tasked with making quick, smart decisions for long term success of the operation that ensures employee safety and relations while capitalizing on customer obsession and promise. I love to bring my passion for living in the now and taking everyday as a blessing and trying to live each day to the fullest and never taking what we have for granted. When not working or attending sporting events for my daughters, we can be found at the NCC pool, on the pickleball courts, or out on the trails nearby in Rock Creek or any of the many parks near and far to the DMV. While still an avid Browns & Guardians fan, I do enjoy going to Nationals and Caps games when the opportunity presents itself. Elizabeth and I look forward to raising our daughters in this amazing community and look forward to enjoying many more years in the Village of North Chevy Chase.